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dered necessary some compilation of the state decisions upon the multitude of questions involved. No phase of the law enters into the life of the active practitioner so intimately as that which relates to the inclusion and the exclusion of legal proof. The effect of relationship, either personal or professional as affecting the evidence of a related party,—the admissibility of the testimony of an interested party in a civil proceeding,—the employment of expert evidence,—the methods of proof of handwriting, etc., etc.,—these are fruitful subjects, and it is well that a systematic and scholarly attempt has been made to gather together the consensus of opinion in the courts of this commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania the common law conception of competency was originally limited by the Act of 1887; then, as successive complications were brought to light, the statutes were amended. Thus, under the Act of 1887, a party to a contract could not ordinarily testify, where the other party was deceased. This seemed just, but as cases developed in which there might have been a neutral party present at the making of the contract, it would sometimes happen, in a suit by the executor of a deceased partner, against the surviving partner, that a neutral party would appear as a witness for the plaintiff, whereas the defendant was incompetent to explain his own part in the transaction. This led to the Act of 1891, which allowed the surviving partner to testify when there was a living witness who had testified against his interest. Such were the steps of growth in the law on this phase of the subject, and it is indeed fortunate that Dr. Trickett's well-planned treatise has appeared to lend system to the whole subject.

F. S. E.

A STUDY OF THE COURT OF STAR CHAMBER, LARGELY BASED ON MANUSCRIPTS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE. A Dissertation submitted to the Faculties of the Graduate Schools of Arts, Literature, and Science of the University of Chicago, Department of History, in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By CORA L. SCOTFIELD. Pp. xxx+82. (Pamphlet.) Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1900.

The name "Court of Star Chamber" generally suggests that infamous instrument of the English crown once used to crush those who had fallen, justly or unjustly, under royal suspicion; but the author of the above shows that the court, being of an appellate nature, probably exercised at first a really beneficial influence. Private suits, especially, received an impartial trial, but suits affecting the crown did not fare so well. That the court fell into ill repute was due to the political ends which it was made to subserve.

It is not generally known either that this court exercised legislative as well as judicial powers, the most famous of its ordinances being the rules and regulations laid down for those engaged in the printing business. These and many other interesting points about this famous court are presented in the above work.

It also contains a very complete list of printed books on the subject, state papers and historical collections, together with a catalogue of the manuscripts in the British Museum, which make it a very valuable aid to those desiring to make a closer study of the subject.

R. B. W.

THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY. Being a complete compendium of real estate law, embracing all current case law, carefully selected, thoroughly annotated and accurately epitomized; comparative statutory construction of the laws of the several states; and exhaustive treatises upon the most important branches of the law of real property. Edited by EMERSON E. BALLARD, editor of "Deed Forms Annotated," "Ballard's Real Estate Statutes of Kentucky," "Ballard's Ohio Law of Real Property" and one of the authors of "Ballard's Real Estate Statutes of Indiana." Vol. VIII. Pp. xxxii+888. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Company. 1902.

As the title shows, this is the eighth volume in the author's series on Real Property, his purpose being to keep the above excellent work abreast with the progress of the law.

The volume is based on the 3,392 cases decided since the publication of Volume VII, and brings the work right up to date. It is especially valuable to the profession because it devotes most attention to cases which contain learned discussions of, or collations of authorities, on important topics and novel situations, or which construe some new statute of general importance, instead of rehashing long settled principles or citing and applying local statutes.

Its accuracy and conciseness should render it a great saver of time to the busy lawyer.

R. B. W.

THE STATUTORY AND CASE LAW, APPLICABLE TO PRIVATE COMPANIES, with special reference to THE GENERAL CORPORATION ACT OF NEW JERSEY AND CORPORATION PRECEDENTS APPLICABLE TO CORPORATIONS GENERALLY. By JAMES B. DILL. Fourth edition. 1 Vol., pp. xxxiv+582. New York: Baker Voorhis & Co., 1902.

This is the fourth edition of a work which first appeared in 1898. No apology need be offered for the number of editions, as the